

Child Fatality Review Newsletter

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CFR Team Building!!

Coordinators:

Getting the most out of review meetings is the result of good planning and a consistent process that a team can depend on!!

- Consistent agenda, chance to review prior cases, track recommendations & actions
- Tap agency reps to introduce case, provide details (ownership)
- Review actions, who led, give recognition, celebrate successes
- Keep members up to date on case log & volume, pending cases
- Skill building how to be an effective player

Unintentional Drowning

Every day, about ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning is the sixth leading cause of unintentional injury death for people of all ages, and the second leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14 years.

For every child who dies from drowning, another four received emergency department care for nonfatal injuries. Summer time is a great time to discuss water danger with your children and teach them how to take safety precautions starting at a very young age.

Hitting the waters is a great family activity during the summer months. Whether it's a power boat, a family canoe, or a walk on the dock, the risks are the same. Anyone on or near the water without a life jacket is at risk for drowning in the event of an accident.

We want you and your family to be safe on the water this year!!!

Follow these simple tips to stay safe on the waters:

1. Always have your children wear the right size and type life jacket .
2. Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water.
3. Enroll your child in swimming lessons.
4. Make sure kids swim only in areas designated for swimming.
5. Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool.
6. Do not let kids operate personal water crafts such as jet skis.
7. Teach children not to dive into oceans, lakes or rivers because you never know how deep the water is or what might be hidden under the surface of the water .

Safe Kids Launches Awareness Campaign to Reduce Child Deaths from Heat Stroke

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 23, 2011) – Kentucky Department for Public Health Commissioner William Hacker, M.D., joined representatives from Safe Kids and other advocates at the Capitol today to unveil the elements of a national education and awareness campaign to help reduce child vehicular deaths caused by heat stroke. The event comes on the heels of a weekend tragedy in Louisville in which a 2-year-old died after being left in a hot car.

According to Safe Kids, two additional child vehicular deaths (in Texas and Louisiana) have already occurred in 2011. Last year, the worst year on record, 49 children in the U.S. died from heat stroke while unattended in vehicles. From 1998-2010, at least 494 deaths are known to have occurred nationally. In Kentucky, there have been 13 deaths attributed to vehicular hyperthermia during the same time period and one death every year since 2004.

“The tragedy in Louisville illustrates the continued need for awareness and action on this issue. We want our citizens to understand the dangers of extremely hot cars and not to leave children in vehicles,” said Hacker. “Not only is this an issue of caretaker neglect, but we must advocate against leaving children unattended in vehicles – particularly in warmer months when cars can heat up quickly – as a means of ensuring the child’s health and well-being.”

The Safe Kids USA network is composed of 600 coalitions and chapters around the country, including in Kentucky. The “Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car” program will unite and mobilize a wide range of partners – police and fire, hospitals, government agencies, child care centers, businesses and others – to share with parents and other caregivers prevention messages to address the dangers to children in vehicles. The program will include an advertising campaign of billboards, print ads, web banners and radio announcements as well as tip sheets. The materials will be available in both English and Spanish.

“The loss of a child due to hyperthermia is a horrific tragedy that, sadly, we are seeing every year in this state,” said Dr. Susan Pollack, M.D., pediatrician and coordinator for Kentucky’s State Safe Kids Coalition. “We are working to raise awareness of the fact that children should never be left unattended in a vehicle. Parents and caregivers need to take steps to ensure that children cannot gain entrance to vehicles on their own by locking their cars and teaching children never to play in vehicles. It’s also important to realize that more than half the deaths occur when everyday working people have a change in morning routine, so the prevention tips that follow are important to put in place. If your child is missing, checking the vehicle first may save a life.”



Several measures are recommended to prevent these types of deaths from occurring. As part of the national campaign, Safe Kids is recommending:

Create reminders. More than half of child heat stroke deaths occur because parents and caregivers become distracted and exit their vehicle without their child. To help prevent these tragedies parents can:

Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or something that is needed at your next stop on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This will help you see your child when you open the rear door and reach for your belongings.

- Set the alarm on your cell phone as a reminder to you to drop your child off at day care.
- Set your computer calendar program to ask, "Did you drop off at day care today?" Establish a plan with your day care that if your child fails to arrive within an agreed upon time, you will be called. Be especially mindful of your child if you change your routine for day care.



Don't underestimate the risk.

The inside of vehicles can quickly heat up, even on relatively cool days, so you should never leave your child alone in a car. Don't underestimate the risks and leave them even "just for a minute."

Lock cars and trucks. Thirty percent of the recorded heat stroke deaths in the U.S. occur because a child was playing in an unattended vehicle. These deaths can be prevented by simply locking the vehicle doors to help assure that kids don't enter the vehicles and become trapped.

Immediately dial 911 if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble. The body temperature of children rises three to five times faster than adults. As a result, children are much more vulnerable to heat stroke. Check vehicles and trunks first if a child is missing.

For more information on preventing child heat stroke deaths, please visit www.ggweather.com/heat and www.safekids.org/nlyca.

Focus on ATV Safety

There has been growing interest in the topic of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety due to the increasing use of ATV's for both recreational and occupational purposes. Unfortunately, research indicates a rise in fatalities and injuries involving ATVs, mostly due to driver misuse and inappropriate rider behavior. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Kentucky was third in the nation with 114 ATV deaths reported from 2005 to 2007, behind West Virginia and Florida. In 2008, 14% of Kentucky's transportation crash fatalities among children under 18 were due to ATV injuries. An ATV that turns over can lead to serious injury or death from blunt trauma to the chest, a combination of chest and head injuries, or positional asphyxia. Overturns typically occur when riding on a steep hillside or when the ATV runs off the road, but can even occur in an open yard. Helmets help protect the head from serious injury while riding an ATV and should always be worn regardless of age, experience, or length of time on the ATV. These ATV fatalities occurred in counties across the state. While summer is generally considered the time when accidents occur, ATV deaths occurred throughout the year, from February to November. The age range of those killed due to ATV accidents was 9 to 17 years.

In addition to the ATV deaths, dirt bikes also pose a threat of serious injury or death, especially when the child is not wearing a helmet. Unfortunately, neither ATVs nor dirt bikes are typically thought of as motor vehicles, and children are often allowed to drive these vehicles with no driving education.

There were a total of 84 reported deaths of children under the age of 16 years old from 1982– 2006 that were killed on ATV's.



Child Death Review is a Prevention Effort!!!

Deaths are salient events that are markers for the health & safety of people & communities. Environmental, social, economic, health and behavioral factors impact the death. These factors are so multidimensional that responsibility for a death doesn't belong to any one place. Reviews focus on what went wrong & how can we fix it, not who is at fault & who should we blame?

Question of the Month

Q: How many Fireworks– Related Injuries occur during the summer?

A: Between June 20 & July 20 2008 an estimated 7,000 people– an average of more than 19 people everyday– were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from fireworks.

Please send suggestions or articles that you would like to see included in the newsletter. We welcome the chance to highlight your activities, overviews of your program, local team achievements, projects that have come from local reviews, etc.

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